CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1.   A method for processing shared data comprising:

2   receiving a request to perform a task on shared data;

3   creating a work item message for the task; and

4   publishing the work item message to a messaging

5 service.

1 2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the task is one of an

2 edit task and a locking task.

1 3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of publishing

2 the work item message comprises posting the work item

3 message to an edit topic.

1 4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the task is one of an

2 edit task and an unlocking task.

1 5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the step of publishing

2 the work item message comprises posting the work item

3 message to a transaction topic.

1 6.   A method for processing shared data comprising:

2   receiving a work item message from a messaging service;

3   processing the work item message; and

4   publishing a result to the messaging service.

1 13. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving a

2 work item message comprises consuming a work item message

3 from a transaction topic.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of processing

2 the work item message comprises:

3   performing a request task corresponding to the work

4 item message on a clone of at least a portion of the shared

5 data.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the work item message

2 comprises an unlocking request.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of processing

2 the work item message comprises unlocking at least a portion

3 of the shared data.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the result comprises a

2 modified portion of the shared data.

1 18. A method for processing shared data comprising:

2   receiving a result from a messaging service;

3   processing the result; and

4   updating the shared data based on the result.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of processing

2 the result comprises modifying the shared data in persistent

3 storage.

1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of processing
2 the result comprises updating the shared data in memory.

1 21. An apparatus for processing shared data comprising:
2   receipt means for receiving a request to perform a task
3 on shared data;
4   creation means for creating a work item message for the
5 task; and
6   publication means for publishing the work item message
7 to a messaging service.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the task is one of
2 an edit task and a locking task.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the publication
2 means comprises means for posting the work item message to
3 an edit topic.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the task is one of
2 an edit task and an unlocking task.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the publication
2 means comprises means for posting the work item message to a
3 transaction topic.

1 26. An apparatus for processing shared data comprising:
2   receipt means for receiving a work item message from a
3 messaging service;

4   processing means for processing the work item message;

5 and

6   publication means for publishing a result to the

7 messaging service.

1 27.   The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the receipt means

2 comprises means for consuming a work item message from an

3 edit topic.

1 28.   The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising means for

2 placing the work item message in an edit queue.

1 29.   The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the processing means

2 comprises:

3   means for determining whether the work item message was

4 created by a current server cluster node; and

5   means for performing a request task corresponding to

6 the work item message if the work item message was created

7 by the current server cluster node.

1 30.   The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processing means

2 further comprises:

3   means for waiting until the work item message is

4 removed from the edit queue if the work item message was not

5 created by the current server cluster node.

1 31.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the work item

2 message comprises a locking request.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the processing means
2 comprises means for locking a portion of the shared data.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the receipt means
2 comprises means for consuming a work item message from a
3 transaction topic.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the processing means
2 comprises:
3   means for performing a request task corresponding to
4 the work item message on a clone of at least a portion of
5 the shared data.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the work item
2 message comprises an unlocking request.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the processing means
2 comprises means for unlocking at least a portion of the
3 shared data.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the result comprises
2 a modified portion of the shared data.

1 38. An apparatus for processing shared data comprising:
2   receipt means for receiving a result from a messaging
3 service;
4   processing means for processing the result; and
5   update means for updating the shared data based on the
6 result.

1   39.   The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the processing means
2   comprises means for modifying the shared data in persistent
3   storage.

1   40.   The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the processing means
2   comprises means for updating the shared data in memory.

1   41.   A computer program product, in a computer readable
2   medium, for processing shared data comprising:
3   instructions for receiving a request to perform a task
4   on shared data;
5   instructions for creating a work item message for the
6   task; and
7   instructions for publishing the work item message to a
8   messaging service.

1   42.   A computer program product, in a computer readable
2   medium, for processing shared data comprising:
3   instructions for receiving a work item message from a
4   messaging service;
5   instructions for processing the work item message; and
6   instructions for publishing a result to the messaging
7   service.

1   43.   A computer program product, in a computer readable
2   medium, for processing shared data comprising:
3   instructions for receiving a result from a messaging
4   service;

5   instructions for processing the result; and

6   instructions for updating the shared data based on the

7 result.